(b) if so, the details of the schemes where such assistance has been sanctioned so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Sundarban area of West Bengal is considered as a "High Focus Area" for implementation of various Non-conventional energy programmes by the Ministry. The Ministry has not made provisions to provide 90% Central Financial Assistance to the Sunderban area of West Bengal for implementation of non-conventional energy programmes. However, suggestions have been made for extending 90% Central Financial Assistance to some other areas including the Sunderban area of West Bengal.

**Subsidy on Bio-gas plants in Himachal Pradesh**

2285. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for enhancement of subsidy on Bio-gas plants in Himachal Pradesh on the pattern of North Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Himachal Pradesh had sent a proposal in July, 2001 for enhancing the rate of Central subsidy from Rs. 3500/- to Rs. 6,500/- per family type biogas plant under the Central Sector Scheme—National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD). The proposal was not considered justifiable on the basis of estimated capital cost of plants for low hill areas, where the State was largely promoting the plants, which was generally 20 per cent less than that of for North Eastern Region States.